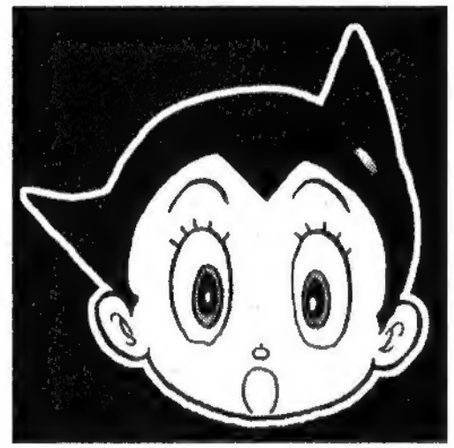
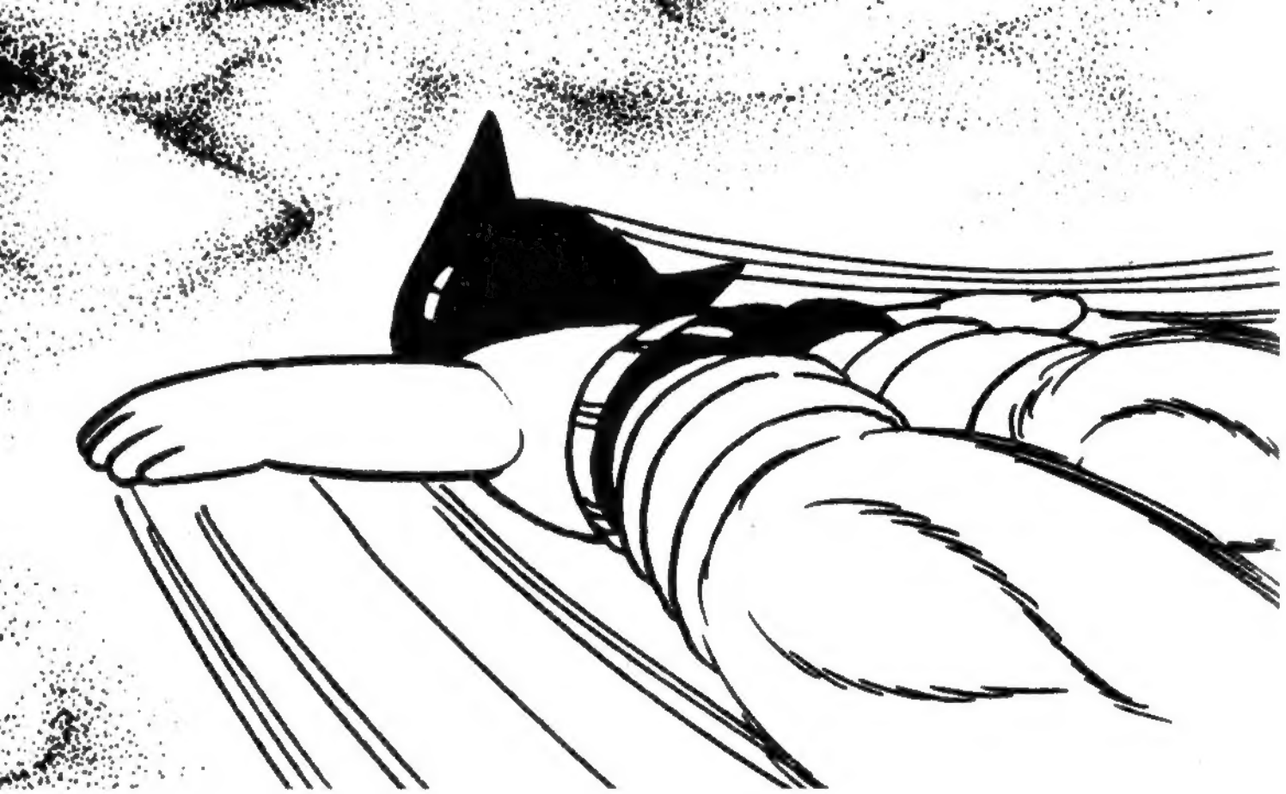
23
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY®





ASTRO BOY

23

by

Osamu Tezuka

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THE ROBOT DISPOSER

First appeared in the September 1980 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

WHO AM I, YOU ASK?

I'M THE FAMOUS *DR. FOOLA*, A NOTORIOUS SCROOGE!

YOU WANT THREE HUNDRED YEN FOR THAT?! YOU'RE *KIDDING*! GIMME *TEN PERCENT OFF!!*

SINCE I BOUGHT THIS THING, I'VE GOTTA EAT ALL THE SEEDS AND THE RIND, TOO!

WHOOPS... WHAT A *WASTE* OF A *SEED!*

WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S *SPROUTING!*

YIPPEE!

HEY! DON'T STEP THERE!!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SCRUNCH

HEH HEH... SOON AS THIS THING TURNS INTO A WATERMELON, IT'S *MINE!*

I WON'T LET *ANYONE* ELSE HAVE IT!

UM, I'VE GOTTA TO DO SOME CONSTRUCTION...

YOU *LOUSY-STUPID-GOOD-FOR-NOTHING-IDIOT ROBOT!* YOU'RE GOT A LOT OF *NERVE* TO CRUSH MY *WATERMELON PLANT!!*

THERE'S *TOO* MANY ROBOTS IN THE WORLD TODAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

I SAY WE OUGHT TO *REDUCE* THEIR POPULATION BY *SMASHING* ALL THE SURPLUS ROBOTS!

NOW, JUST A MINUTE, FOOLA...

EVEN ROBOTS ARE LIVING THINGS...

THERE'S NO NEED TO DO ANYTHING SO *DRASTIC*...

YOU'VE NO IDEA, *OCHANOMIZU*, HOW *ANGRY* I AM ABOUT LOSING MY WATERMELONS!!

IF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WON'T GO ALONG WITH MY IDEA...

...I'LL START REDUCING THE ROBOT POPULATION ON MY *OWN!*

HHIC€...

FINALLY, YOU'RE *DONE!* NOW, GO DOWNTOWN AND START *GOBBLING UP ROBOTS!*

SMASH

HEEK!€

GRAAAAR

ROAR

HEELP!

ROAR

HSOB€... *HE SMASHED MY OWN HOUSE!!*

WHAT THE--?!

HEY! *STOP!* WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?!*

ZAAP

BZZZT

YIKES!

UH OH... ASTRO'S IN *TROUBLE!*

ROAR

IT'S SAFE DOWN HERE, FOLKS! WE CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE *SEWERS!*

GRAAAR

GOSH, WE ROBOTS'LL HAVE TO STAY UNDERGROUND FOREVER...

WELL, WITH THAT KIND OF MONSTER-BOT RUNNING AROUND, EVEN THE HUMANS WON'T BE SAFE...

NO WAY I CAN DEFEAT A MONSTER-BOT LIKE THAT HEAD-ON, BUT I BET HIS UNDERBELLY'S UNPROTECTED...

SMASH

NONE OF YOUR WEAPONS'LL GET ME HERE!

I'LL ATTACK FROM DIRECTLY *BELOW*...

VROOOOM

OUGHTA BE RIGHT ABOUT HERE...

VROOOM

KABOOOM

UH OH... HE'S TURNING THIS WAY...

SHNARK

YIKES! HE *CAUGHT* ME!!

ONCE HE SWALLOWS ME, I'M *DONE FOR!!*

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

TAKE *THIS*, MONSTER-BOT!

VOMP

THAT'LL SHOW YOU!

NOW TO GET *REALLY* SERIOUS!

SMASH

KER BASH

TIME TO TOSS YOU IN THE OCEAN!

SORRY, PAL, BUT IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE REST OF US...

SOB... LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU BLASTED ROBOT... SOB...

GOSH, DR. FOOLA ... DON'T *CRY*...

THOSE CARPENTER ROBOTS'LL MAKE YOUR HOUSE JUST LIKE NEW!

REALLY?! GEE... I THINK I'M IN *LOVE!*

FRANKEN

First appeared in the October 1980 issue of
Shogaku Ninensei magazine.

YOU WERE BORN RIGHT HERE IN THIS FACTORY, ASTRO...

REALLY ?! WOW...

PROFESSOR! COME QUICK! THE COMPUTER'S *MALFUNCTIONING!*

IT'S GONE *NUTS* AND STARTED MAKING *WEIRD ROBOTS!*

OH, MY GOSH! WE'VE GOT TO SHUT IT OFF IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT THE HECK *IS* THIS ?!

ASTRO, YOU'VE GOTTA *HELP!!*

URAAII!!

UH OH... HE'S STARTED MOVING ON HIS *OWN*, EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT FINISHED!

URAAII!!

CHONK

BONK

HE... HE'S TRYING TO CHOOSE A *HEAD* FOR HIMSELF!

HEY! *WAIT!* THEY DON'T FIT YOU!!

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

SMASH

SMASH

BASH

URAAII!!

OH, MY GOSH... WITH THOSE HEADS, IT'S *NO WONDER* HE'S GONE BERSERK! WORSE YET, HE'LL *BLOW UP* IN *TEN MINUTES!*

YOU'VE GOTTA *STOP* HIM, ASTRO! TAKE THOSE HEADS *OFF* HIM!

OKAY, HERE I GO, PROFES-SOR!

BONK

THAT'S TWO DOWN...

URAAAII!

POW

FWP

CHAK

YIKES! HEY! GIVE ME MY HEAD BACK!!

I SAID, GIVE IT BACK!!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

OWW OWWW OWWW URAAAIII!

YAY! I GOT IT BACK!

YA GYA GUGUGAAHHH!

ASTRO! YANK OUT THE *BOLTS* IN HIS *WAIST!* THEN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO *STAND!*

HERE WE GO, BIG BOY...

ONE DOWN...

NOW FOR ANOTHER...

FWAP

POIK

SQUISH

ARGGGHH...

GOT IT!

AGAAHHH...

GAH...

WELL DONE, ASTRO, WELL DONE... WE'RE MAKING A *REAL* HEAD FOR HIM NOW...

THE COMPUTER'S BEEN REPAIRED, AND IT'S CREATING A HEAD FOR HIM IN THE SHAPE THAT HE REALLY WANTS...

URAAAII!!

HA HA! LOOK, PROFESSOR! LOOK WHAT HE CHOSE!!!

ASTRO VS. ATLAS

First appeared in the November 1980 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

FINALLY! A ROBOT STRONGER THAN ASTRO!!

WE HEREBY CHRISTEN YOU ATLAS!!

HEY! GIVE MY MONOCLE BACK!

AHGULP!

ARGAHE OWWWW!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE CREATED A REAL RASCAL!

EDUCATE THE KID, SKUNK... THAT'S AN ORDER!!

B-BUT H-HOW?

HEY! DON'T SCATTER ALL THAT STUFF!!

AND INK'S NOT FOR DRINKING!!

BWWWAAAAP

YIKES!

NOW YOU'VE GOT INK ALL OVER YOU!

HANG ON... HOLD STILL!!

SCRUB SCRUB

I SAID, "HOLD STILL!"

SCRUB SCRUB

OWWWE OWWE! HAALP!!!!

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, ATLAS!

COME *HERE*...

>UNGH< ...

LISTEN, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT ASTRO BOY AND *DEFEAT* HIM, UNDERSTAND?

HE'S A *CHAMPION OF JUSTICE*, BUT AN *ENEMY* OF MINE!

"ASTRO BOY'S GOT SEVEN SPECIAL POWERS ..."

"HE CAN FLY THROUGH THE AIR..."

"... AND HIS FINGERS EMIT *LASER BEAMS!*"

"... HIS EYES ARE SEARCH LIGHTS..."

"... HE'S GOT 100,000 HORSE-POWER..."

"... HE CAN HEAR 1000 TIMES MORE THAN A HUMAN..."

"... HE CAN SPEAK 100 LANGUAGES..."

"... HE'S GOT MACHINE GUNS IN HIS REAR..."

YOU HAVE THE SAME POWERS AS ASTRO, ATLAS...

...BUT I NEED TO GIVE YOU AN *EIGHTH* POWER.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE EIGHTH?

ANY GOOD IDEAS?

HMM... THERE'S ONE OF THOSE CUTE BELGIAN *MANNEQUIN PIS*, PEE-BOY STATUES...

WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE GOT AN *IDEA!*

?

I KNOW... FOR YOUR EIGHTH POWER, ATLAS, I'LL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO *PEE!*

JUST A SIMPLE MECHANICAL ALTERATION HERE AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PEE ON YOUR ENEMIES WHILE FLYING OVERHEAD, ATLAS... AND THEY'LL *BLOW UP* WHEN HIT!

GOSH, SORT OF LIKE A *CICADA*...

I'M PRETTY SURE SOME BAD GUYS HAVE THEIR HIDEOUT AROUND HERE...

THERE... THAT'S IT!

IT'S THE CASTLE OF THE EVIL *COUNT GISS!*

HEY, THERE'S A ROBOT JUST LIKE ME!!

...I'M CHALLENGING YOU TO A *DUEL*, ASTRO BOY!!

I'M *ATLAS!* AND I WAS CREATED TO *DESTROY* YOU!

WOW... YOU *DO* LOOK LIKE ME...

YEAH... I CAN EVEN DO *THIS!*

FWP

RATATATATATAT

RATATATATATAT

BLAM BLAM

WOW... HE REALLY *IS* IMITATING ME...

I'M *NOT* IMITATING YOU!!

OH, YES YOU *ARE!!*

SNAP

KNOCK IT OFF, ATLAS! WHY'RE YOU TRYING TO ACT SO *TOUGH?!*

BLAST! WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED FOR EITHER OF US TO WIN!

I'LL TRY THIS...

VROOM

I GOT SIX *MOLES!!*

BET YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!

VROOM

JUST WATCH...

LOOK, I'VE GOT *TEN* MOLES!

HAH! WELL, I'VE GOT *TWELVE!*

HEY! KNOCK OFF THE FUN 'N GAMES, ATLAS!!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR *EIGHTH* POWER! *USE* IT!!

OKAY, ASTRO... NOW I'LL *REALLY* SHOW YOU HOW BAD I AM...

I'M GONNA *PEE* ON YOU!!

NOT SO FAST... THAT'S *NOT COOL*, ATLAS...

YOU'RE S'POSED TO PEE IN A *TOILET*, NOT ON PEOPLE!

TOILET P!

YEAH, I'M SURE THERE'S ONE IN THE CASTLE!

WHERE'S THE BATH-ROOM, COUNT GISS?!

N-*NO!* DON'T COME NEAR ME!!

SO *THIS* IS WHERE HUMANS PEE...

RUN FOR IT!!

KA BBBOOOM

GOSH... WHAT HAPPENED?!

I DECIDED TO HELP YOU, ASTRO... I WANNA BE COOL LIKE YOU...

ATLAS, YOU *TRAITOR!!*

PULA, THE BABY ELEPHANT

First appeared in the December 1980 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

BROAAR

BAHGAAHHH

PUSUU... PU... PIIIH BUH...

BAHHH BAOHH BAAOOOO!

WHAT HAPPENED?

UH OH... SHE'S BEEN *KILLED!*

THAT WAS YOUR *MOM*, WASN'T IT...

BAAOHH! BGAAAH! SHBAAH!!

I GET IT... YOU *HATE HUMANS* ...

MAYBE I CAN DISGUISE MYSELF...

THERE... SEE? I'M A *FRIEND!* IT'S OKAY TO COME WITH ME, LITTLE FELLA!

DON'T WORRY... I'LL FIND YOU ANOTHER MOM...

WE'VE WALKED A LONG WAYS, SO YOU MUST BE *HUNGRY*... WAIT... *LOOK!*

HERE, HAVE A *BANANA!*

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I THOUGHT ELEPHANTS *LOVED* BANANAS...

SINCE HE'S JUST A BABY, MAYBE HE ONLY DRINKS HIS MOTHER'S MILK...

HERE'S A GORILLA MOM... IT'S THE BEST I COULD DO...

YOU WAIT HERE..:

I'LL FIND SOMEONE TO FEED YOU!

DRINK UP, LITTLE FELLA...

BLECH!

DON'T LIKE IT, EH?

HOW 'BOUT THIS, THEN?

NONE OF 'EM ANY GOOD? GOSH, MAYBE YOU'RE A LITTLE *PICKY*...

WHAT A MESS... BUT I GUESS ELEPHANT BABIES ONLY DRINK ELEPHANT MILK...

I'VE GOTTA KEEP YOU FROM STARVING...

MUST BE SOME ELEPHANT MOMS *SOMEWHERE*...

HEY! LOOKS LIKE SOME'RE SLEEPING OVER THERE!

GOSH, I THOUGHT THEY WERE SLEEPING, BUT THEY'VE ALL BEEN *KILLED!*

AND ALL OF 'EM HAVE HAD THEIR *TUSKS* PULLED OUT!

HMM... I BET SOME EVIL *HUMAN'S* BEHIND THIS...

I BET SOMEBODY KILLED YOUR MOM FOR HER IVORY TUSKS, TOO...

YOU STAY HERE... I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHO'S DOING THIS!

HEH HEH HEH... LOOK AT ALL THE *IVORY* I'VE GOT! THE ELEPHANTS JUST *WALK* RIGHT UP TO ME, THINKING THIS ROBOT'S THEIR *FRIEND!*

UH OH... IT'S *ASTRO BOY...*

STOP! I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN MURDERING ELEPHANTS!

ZAP ZAP

AAACK!

TAKE *THIS*, YOU *SCOUNDREL!*

ARGH!

ZAP ZAP

SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR ALWAYS *INTERFERING* WITH MY PLANS, ASTRO BOY!

KACHANK

WELL, THE GAME'S UP FOR YOU, PAL...

BZZZAAP

NOPE, THE GAMES OVER FOR *YOU!!*

WHOAH, NELLIE! DON'T STAND UP!!

WITHOUT ITS EARS, THAT ROBOT'S GONE *HAYWIRE!*

HAALP! STOP! HE'S OUT OF *CONTROL!!!*

KABONK

KA-BAM!

KSA-TEE-WAK

DON'T WORRY, *I'LL* STOP 'IM!

YOU SAVED ME, ASTRO BOY....

LOOK, THOUGH... THE ELEPHANTS'RE REALLY ANGRY...

STOMP

SMASH

STOMP

SMASH

STOMP

ANYONE WANNA HELP AN ORPHAN BABY?

HOW 'BOUT A BAD GUY? DOESN'T ANYONE WANT HIM?

GUINNESS BOOK ROBOTS

First appeared in the January 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

HELLO... HELLO...?

SOMEBODY CALL ME?

...OR WAS IT A *DREAM* ?

HELLO... HELLO?

HELLP!

WHAT THE --?!

I'M IN THE BOOGER BALLOON FROM YOUR *NOSE!*

YOU'RE *WHAT* ?!

I'M THE WORLD'S TINIEST *MINI-ROBOT!!*

I'M IN THE *GUINNESS BOOK OF ROBOTS!*

GUINESS BOOK OF ROBOTS?!

IT'S A BOOK WITH EVERYTHING ABOUT WORLD-RECORD ROBOTS...

HUMANS HAVE A *GUINNESS BOOK*, RIGHT?

...AND I WANT *ASTRO BOY* TO BE IN THE BOOK, TOO!

HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL ROBOT IN THE WHOLE WORLD, RIGHT?

WELL, THAT'S ALL FINE AND WELL...

...BUT WHAT IF THERE'RE *OTHER* POWERFUL ROBOTS?

HEY! WHERE'D THAT MINI-ROBOT GO, ANYWAY?

I'M HERE, IN YOUR *STOM-ACH!*

OH, NO!!

toilet

I MUST'VE SWALLOWED HER WITH MY TOAST!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

SURE, B-BUT *HOW?!*

IT'S TOO LATE TO THROW YOU UP...

AN' I CAN'T POOP ON COMMAND...

ACK! PEE *YEWWWW!*

YOU SICK OR SOMETHING, PROFESSOR?

UNGH!... I'VE GOT ROBOT CONSTIPATION...

HOW 'BOUT IT? THINK I'M THE WORLD'S STRONGEST ROBOT... ?

THE WORLD'S MOST EGOTISTICAL ROBOT, YA KNOW!

SO WHY'S *ASTRO BOY* LISTED IN THE *GUINNESS BOOK OF ROBOTS?!*

ASTRO BOY? LISTEN, I'M CHALLENGING YOU TO A *DUEL!!*

I *WANNA FIND OUT ONCE AN' FOR ALL WHO'S THE STRONGEST!!*

B-BUT I DON'T *WANT* TO BE IN THE *GUINNESS BOOK...*

JUST *SHUT UP AN' COME MEET ME!*

THE DUEL'S AT NOON, TOMORROW AT UNINHABITED ISLAND NO. Q238! BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

YOU MUST GO AND *WIN*, ASTRO!

B-BUT I'M *AGAINST* HIS GOING !!

NO, ASTRO'S GOT TO SHOW HOW TOUGH HE IS!

WHAP!

SHADDUP!!

?

OWWW!
OWWW!
OWWW!

Q238 WAS AN UNINHABITED ISLAND THAT HAD MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED IN THE SOUTH SEAS...

WHERE'S *ASTRO BOY?* I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE!!

NOT HERE YET, YA KNOW...

HPMH!... I BET ASTRO BOY TURNED *CHICKEN* AND *RAN AWAY!*

BET HE WAS AFRAID OF MY MIGHTY *PLASMA STICK!*

BETTER BE CAREFUL, ASTRO... HE WAS A EUROPEAN ROBOT CHAMPION!!

DON'T WORRY, PROFES-SOR...

THAT'S WASN'T ME, ASTRO, WHO SAID THAT! IT WAS THE *MINI-ROBOT!!*

YOUR OPPONENT'S GOT A POWERFUL WEAPON CALLED A PLASMA STICK!

ARGH!!! THIS THING'S TALKING ON ITS *OWN* AGAIN!!!

I'M GETTING TIRED OF WAITING...

WAIT A MINUTE... THAT'S *HIM!*

VROOOM

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR *DOOM*, ASTRO BOY!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS SO EAGER TO DUEL, *EH?*

WELL, I CAME HERE TO *TURN YOU DOWN!!*

WHAT?! IT'S TOO *LATE* FOR THAT, ROBO-BOY!

TAKE THIS!!

ZAP

BZZZAP

UH OH...

NOW FOR MY *PLASMA STICK JUMP!*

RATS! IT WENT INTO THE *GROUND!*

SHOOK

TAKE THIS!

CRACK

UH OH...

THE WHOLE ISLAND'S...

... MOVING!!!

ROAAAR

KAZOOOOSH!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE TALK ABOUT WHO'S THE STRONGEST FROM EITHER OF YOU...

YEARS AGO, I WAS CREATED JUST SO I COULD BE LISTED AS THE BIGGEST ROBOT IN THE *GUINNESS BOOK OF ROBOTS*...

BUT I WAS *SO* BIG THAT PEOPLE COULDN'T USE ME, AND THEY EVENTUALLY ABANDONED ME AT *SEA*...

... AND I BECAME AN *ISLAND!!*

TAKE IT FROM ME... THERE'S NO ADVANTAGE IN BEING THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROBOT...

LET THE HUMANS HAVE THEIR *GUINNESS BOOK*... WE ROBOTS DON'T REALLY NEED ONE....

LOOK, PROFESSOR! YOU'RE IN THE *GUINNESS BOOK!*

SAYS YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON IN THE WORLD TO *SWALLOW A ROBOT!!*

THE BERSERK ROBOT

First appeared in the February 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

HOKAY, JUMP... ROLL OVER THREE TIMES, CLAP YER PAWS, TAKE A BOW, THEN STAND ON YER HEAD...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

LIKE *THIS*, SEE?

HERE, *I'LL* SHOW YOU...

GO EASY ON *JUMP*, URAN... YOU'LL *HURT* HIM...

B-BUT HE'S SO *STUPID*, ASTRO!

NOW, LISTEN HERE, URAN...

NO DOG CAN CLAP HIS PAWS AND STAND ON HIS HEAD...

BUT *I* CAN DO IT...

ROBOTS AND ANIMALS'RE *DIFFERENT*, URAN!

B-BUT HOW COME? WE'VE BOTH GOT EYES 'N MOUTHS...

C'MON IN, JUMP...

HEY! YOU'RE MAKING A MESS OF THE CARPET, JUMP!

KNOCK IT OFF, URAN!

ƷARG-HHF-FF-FHK

YOU'LL *HURT* POOR JUMP IF YOU DO THAT!

B-BUT ASTRO...

I HATE *JUMP!* GET RID OF HIM!

LISTEN, URAN, IT'S LIKE THIS. I WAS MADE TO REPLACE A HUMAN BOY NAMED *TOBIO*, RIGHT? WELL, JUMP WAS TOBIO'S PET, BUT NOW HE'S GOTTEN USED TO *ME*...

ƷWAAH!E YOU LIKE JUMP BETTER'N ME, ASTRO!!

YOU'RE A GOOD WATCHDOG, JUMP...

SO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED TONIGHT, OKAY?

KATHUMP KATHUMP

OUT OF THE WAY, FUR-BALL!

ARF ARF!

ARROOF ARROOF

KERBASH

OH, MY GOSH... HE'S *DYING!*

I'VE GOTTA GET HIM TO THE *HOSPITAL!*

JUMP! WHAT HAPPENED?

WHA P! WHO MADE THESE *FOOT-PRINTS P!*

WOW... THEY SAY THERE'S A *DELINQUENT* ROBOT ON THE LOOSE...

YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO READ NEWSPAPERS WHILE YOU'RE GETTING AN ENERGY REFILL, PAPA...

VROOOM

SAYS HERE HE RUNS AROUND *SMASHING* EVERYTHING.. THAT HE'S A *DEFECTIVE ROBOT...*

LOOK, MOM! LOOK WHAT THAT CRAZY ROBOT DID TO JUMP!

FLESH 'N BLOOD GUARD DOGS'RE USELESS! WE'D BETTER GET A *ROBO-DOG...*

YAY! ROBO-DOGS'RE A LOT COOLER THAN THE REAL THING!

THEY C'N DANCE 'N EVEN PLAY CARDS WITH ME!

HEY... IT'S GETTING LATE... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO CHECK THE GROUNDS, LIKE A GOOD WATCH-DOG...

KATHUNK KATHUNK

AROOF ?!

GRRRRRRRR

BLAAAP

EEH!

LOOA

SOMETHING SUCKED ALL THE ENERGY OUT OF THIS ROBO-DOG, DAD!!

I BET IT'S THAT NO-GOOD DELINQUENT ROBOT ON THE LOOSE!

NOW'S THE NIGHT...

I'LL GUARD THE PLACE, *PRETENDING* TO BE A *DOG*...

GNASHE GNASHE... SO THEY HIRED A NEW WATCHDOG!

WELL, COME AND GET IT!!

I'LL SUCK EVERY LAST DROP OF ENERGY OUT OF YOU... *HEH HEH*...

ZAP

ZAP

HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

KERBASH

RIP OFF MY ARM, WILL YOU?! YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, POOCH-PUNK!

GET READY, 'CUZ I'M GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT A *REAL ROBO-PUNK* IS!

KERBASH

MAYBE YOU CAN GET PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TO REPAIR YOU SOMEDAY...

HOSPITAL

YOU CAN'T DIE, JUMP!

PLEASE, MISTER DOCTOR... YOU'VE *GOT* TO REPAIR JUMP FOR ME!!

ANIMALS AREN'T LIKE ROBOTS, URAN...

YOU CAN'T REPAIR THEM, AND THEY ONLY LIVE *ONCE*...

PLEASE, O MIGHTY GOD OF ROBOTS...

PLEASE HELP POOR JUMP...

COME OVER HERE, URAN... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE OKAY, AFTER ALL...

HE'S ALREADY ON THE MEND...

I'M *SO* GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, JUMP...!

WATCH ME DO A TRICK, JUMP...

SEE? I SPIN AROUND THREE TIMES, CLAP, AND THEN BOW...

ARF! ARF!

THE MAGNET ROBOT

First appeared in the March 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

AH, KIND MASTER AND MISS...

PLEASE HELP A POOR OLD MAN...

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MY DEAR...

I'M SICK OF ALWAYS ASKING FOR HANDOUTS...

I NEED A ROBOT ASSIS-TANT...

SPARE CHANGE, KIND PEOPLE...

...FOR A POOR ROBOT...

WOW... YOU'RE *GOOD* AT THIS!

HEY, WILL YA LOOK AT THAT!!

IT'S A ROBOT BEGGAR!!

YAY! YOU REALLY PULLED IN THE MONEY!

I KNOW... I'LL PUT *MAGNETS* ON YOU SO YOU CAN PULL IN EVEN MORE!

I MAY BE A BEGGAR, BUT IN THE OLD DAYS I USED TO WORK AT A ROBOT FACTORY, SEE...

GWA HA HA!! IT *WORKED!* IT YANKS IN ALL THE *COINS*, EVEN PEOPLES' *WALLETS!*

NEXT, I'LL MAKE YOU EVEN BIGGER... I'LL MAKE YOU A *GIANT* BEGGAR!

'AN I'LL INCREASE YOUR MAGNETIC POWER TEN TIMES!

HA HA! NOW YOU'LL SUCK UP EVERYTHING WHEN YOU WALK AROUND JAPAN!

THANK YOU, SIR...

SPARE CHANGE, KIND FOLK, FOR A POOR BEGGAR ROBOT...

LOOK, ASTRO... THERE'S A WEIRDO ROBOT HEADED THIS WAY!!

A DONATION, KIND FOLK, A DONATION...

THUNK

SLAM

KACHANG

WATCH OUT, URAN!!! HE'S PULLING YOU TOWARD HIM!!

ARREST THAT ROBOT, MEN, ON THE DOUBLE!!

HE... HE STOLE MY PISTOL AND WALLET!!

HE'S PULLING IN OUR POLICE CARS!

THANK YOU, KIND PEOPLE, THANK YOU...

KATHUNK

HAAALP!!

IT'S AN EXTRAORDINARY BEGGING ROBOT, EVEN ATTRACTING EMPTY DRUM CANS AND OTHER ROBOTS TO ITSELF, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! AND IT'S GETTING *BIGGER BY THE MINUTE!*

KACHANK

KACHANK

TOO DANGEROUS TO BLOW HIM UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY...

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR, *I'LL* TAKE CARE OF HIM!

B-BUT HE'LL JUST SUCK *YOU* IN, TOO, ASTRO!

HI, GUYS... I NEED A REALLY LONG, UNBREAKABLE *ROPE!*

I PUT A HUNDRED YEN COIN ON THE END OF THE ROPE! THIS OUGHTA WORK...

GOT HIM! NOW TO REEL HIM IN!

SPARE CHANGE!!

SHWIP

AH, THANK YOU, KIND SIR!!

SORRY, PAL, BUT YOU'RE GOING UP TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE...

NOW YOU CAN BE THE REAL TIP OF AN ICEBERG!

THERE'S NOTHING METALLIC AT ALL FOR YOU TO ATTRACT THERE...

SEE YA LATER, PAL... JUST RELAX THERE FOR AWHILE...

KABAM

UH OH... THERE IS SOMETHING METALLIC...

IT'S ME!!

KERCHANK

BLAST IT!

I'M STUCK TO HIS SURFACE...

THANK YOU, KIND SIR...

...NOTHING THANKFUL HERE...

IF I COULD JUST SMASH HIS ELECTROMAGNETS, I COULD SAVE MYSELF....

...YOU MAG-NET MORON!

...BUT RIGHT NOW I CAN'T BUDGE AN INCH...

HERE WE GO, STRAIGHT INTO YOU, BUDDY...

WAIT A MINUTE! I KNOW...

I'LL USE A *LASER BLAST*...

...AND *FRY* HIS ELECTROMAG CIRCUITS!

KA BOOOM

YAY! I DID IT!

MYAAAE... NOW I FEEL SO MUCH LIGHTER! THANK YOU!

SPARE CHANGE, KIND SIR...?

KIND SIR, *SCHMIND* SIR...

YOU OUGHT TO BE *ASHAMED* OF YOURSELF!

YOU WERE A RESPECTED ROBOT ENGINEER ONCE... SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING, LOOKING LIKE THIS?! *EH?!*

LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU GUYS, ASTRO 'N URAN... h ZE'S A LITTLE REWARD FOR YOUR SERVICES, ASTRO...

THANK YOU, KIND SIR!!

THAT'S *NOT FUNNY*, ASTRO!!!

GIANT URAN

First appeared in the April 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

GIMME THAT, URAN! IT'S *MINE!*

NO! IT'S *MY* ENERGY CASSETTE, ASTRO!

YOU'VE GOTTA TO LEARN WHAT'S YOURS AND WHAT'S NOT, URAN...

WAAAH!

SO, VAT'S ALL ZE FUSS ABOUT, SWEETIE?

I CAN'T STAND IT! MY BROTHER ASTRO *ALWAYS* GETS HIS WAY!

VELL, ZAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE ZE *WEAKER SEX*, SWEETIE...

YOU HEAR THAT, FATHER?!

YES, *MA'AM!!*

I VANT YOU TO REBUILD THIS ROBOT GIRL! MAKE HER STRONG, LIKE *ME!*

B-BUT I CAN'T DO THAT, DEAR...

THERE'S *RULES* AGAINST IT!

BUT I'M *ASKING* YOU! SO *DO* IT! *NOW!!!*

YES, *MA'AM!!*

AH, NICE AND *STRONG!!* BUT GIVE HER SEVEN POWERS, TOO!!

B-BUT WHAT *SORT* OF POWERS? THIS ISN'T EASY, YOU KNOW...

WE CAN MAKE HER FLY THROUGH THE AIR...

HMPHooo

SCRATCH SCRATCH

GIVE HER RETRACTABLE CLAWS FOR SCRATCHING...

MAKE HER BUMP PEOPLE WITH HER BOTTOM...

GIVE HER POWERFUL GAS AFTER EATING POTATOES...

WHO EVER HEARD OF SUCH *STOOPID* ZUPER POWERS! BE *SERIOUS!!*

B-BUT SHE'S MORE *POWERFUL* NOW...

GIVE ME BACK MY ENERGY CASSETTE!!

HI, ASTRO... *BOOO!*

WHAT THE--?!

GOSH, HOW'D YOU GET SO *BIG*, URAN?!

BOOM!!

SMASH

GIVE IT BACK, OR I'LL DO *THIS!!*

HERE... IT'S *YOURS...*

YAY!!

ASTRO FINALLY *SURREN-DERED!*

MY, WHAT A POWERFUL LOOKING ROBOT...

YEAH, EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN ASTRO BOY!!

WELL, THAT'S NICE... WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR, THEN...

SOME EVIL INVENTOR MADE THAT MONSTER BIRD UP THERE, AND WE CAN'T GET HIM TO LEAVE!

NO PROBLEM! LEAVE IT UP TO ME!!

UH OH... HE LOOKS *AWFULLY* *BIG* UP CLOSE...

GOSH, HE DOESN'T FEEL A *THING!*

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

AN' NOW HE'S CLAWING *ME!!*

>OWWWW!<

CRUNCH CRUNCH

WHAT?! A ROBOT MORE POWERFUL THAN ASTRO BOY'S IN TROUBLE?

ASTRO, YOU'VE GOTTA GO SAVE THE ROBOT!! *HURRY!*

URAN?! WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

TAKE *THIS*, MONSTER-BIRD!

DON'T WORRY, URAN, I'VE GOT YOU...

OKAY, MONSTER, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW!

BZAAAP

THIS'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, BIRD-BRAIN!!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO HURT MY LITTLE SISTER!

KA-BOOM

BASH

SMASH

BASH

GOSH, YOU REALLY *ARE* STRONG, AREN'T YOU, ASTRO....

OKAY, MISTER, YOU'VE GOTTA RESTORE URAN TO HER *ORIGINAL* FORM!

YESSIR...

VAT P!! RESTORE HER TO HER ORIGINAL FORM?! JUST VEN SHE'S BECOME NICE 'N *POWERFUL P!*

AT LEAST LET HER KEEP SEVEN POWERS!

I LET HER KEEP ONE... THE ABILITY TO MAKE *LOUD-MOUTHS SHUT UP!*

SPLOOSH

PHUNSAAH!!

SPACE DOLL

First appeared in the May 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

WOW... WHAT'S THIS HAND-LIKE THING POKING OUT OF THE SAND?!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE HAND OF A GIANT BUDDHA STATUE, THAT'S FER SURE...

HEY... THIS THING'S A ROBOT, GUYS!

IT... IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT DOLL...

SCREEEE

OWW!! MY EARS HURT!!

STOP! STOP THE NOISE!

CRACK

CRACK

SMASH

CRACK

BOKO BOKO PUCHI PUCHI PUKU PUKU

FINALLY, THE NOISE STOPPED...

HEY, IT'S MUTTERING SOMETHING!

KAVOOSH

IT'S ANOTHER CRAZY ROBOT ON THE LOOSE!!

THIS ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAPPEN!

I HATE MANGA LIKE THIS! THE ROBOTS ALWAYS START SMASHING THINGS!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEAR?

SOB I CAN'T FIND MY DOLL, MOM!!

NOW, NOW... IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS PLAYING IN THE SAND ON THAT PLANET...

BWAAAAH

SHUDDUP!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET *OVER* IT!!

LET'S TRY'N FIND THE DOLL FOR HER, PAPA...

WE CAN GO BACK TO THAT PLANET AND LOOK ....

A MONSTER IS ON THE LOOSE, FOLKS, SCATTERING A STRANGE STICKY FLUID ABOUT HIM...

GO FIND OUT WHAT IT REALLY IS, ASTRO!

WITH THIS, IT WON'T GET ON ME...

"SECOND GRADER"

WOW! HE'S SPRAYING IT ALL AROUND!

I'LL USE THIS TO GET *CLOSE*...

LOOKS LIKE CREAM-COLORED, DISGUSTING WATER...

HERE, I'LL GET YOU FROM BEHIND!

AND ESCORT YOU INTO *OUTER SPACE*...

IT'S FOR YOUR *OWN GOOD!*

SCREE

UH OH... I CAN'T *STAND* THAT NOISE! I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD'LL SPLIT OPEN!

POP

EVEN MY *BODY'S* STARTING TO *CRACK!*

CRACK

TIME TO TAKE *ACTION!*

BEHAVE, AND I'LL GO EASY ON YOU...

... AND FIND OUT WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE!

HOLY COW!!

HIS BODY'S FILLED WITH *MILK!*

SPLOOSH

SCREEE

AH, YUU POH...

KWOOMP

WAAH!E LOOKIT! MY BABY BOTTLE DOLL'S BEEN RUINED!!

YOU MEAN THIS THING'S A MILK-DRINKING DOLL?

WHAT'S THIS WEIRD BUG-LIKE THING ON IT, SWEETIE?

ALIENS?!!

GET ME THE INSECTICIDE, DEAR...

WE'VE GOT A BUG IN THE PLACE...

FSST

BLASTED BUG!!

I'LL GET 'IM!!

TAKE THIS!

NA NA KA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, DADDY?!

VROOOOM

YAY! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A *CIRCUS*, DADDY!

ALL RIGHT, YOU BLASTED *PEST*, YOU *ASKED* FOR IT...

TAKE *THIS*...

KER CRASH THUD BOOM

UH OH...

ZAP

SUCH A TINY BUG, BUT MY, HOW *STRONG* YOU ARE... YOU EVEN BEAT MY *DADDY!*

HEY, I'M NOT A BUG... I'M A *ROBOT!!*

I DON'T CARE... YOU CAN BE MY NEW *DOLL!!*

DON'T WORRY, I'LL SECRETLY LET YOU GO LATER...

PROFESSOR! ASTRO'S COME *BACK!*

HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY *UFOS!*

COME ON OUT, ASTRO... DON'T BE SHY...

NO! I'M TOO *EMBAR-RASSED!*

GOSH, YOU LOOK SO *CUTE*, ASTRO!

HEY, GO EASY ON ME...

GWA HA HA! THIS IS A GOOD ONE!!

GHOSTS IN THE DESERT

First appeared in the June 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

THEY SAY GHOSTS APPEAR HERE IN THIS DESERT, ASTRO...

SO WE'RE GOING TO INVESTIGATE, RIGHT?

WHEREVER YOU ARE, GHOSTS... C'MON OUT!

THE WATER'S GOOD OVER HERE... *HEH HEH HEH...*

I DON'T GET WHY GHOSTS WOULD APPEAR WHERE THERE AREN'T ANY PEOPLE...

WHAT THE--?!

THEY'RE ALL *ME!*

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! KNOCK IT OFF!

?

GLOMP

?

THEY'RE ALL MADE OF *SAND!*

SHWAP

?

THEY'RE JUST GLOBS OF SAND WITH *NOTHING INSIDE!*

YIKES!

THIS GUY'S PROB'LY JUST SAND, TOO!

BLAST IT!

RATATAT

UH OH... THERE'S *MORE* OF 'EM! AND THEY'RE LIKE *BAD IMITATIONS OF ME!*

YIKES! HE GOT ME!

I'M BEING *SWAL-LOWED!*

THIS IS LIKE CLAY, AN' IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER!

TIME TO *BREAK FREE!*

LIKE *THIS!*

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!

YOU SHALL BE OUR *PRISONER HERE, FOREVER. THERE IS NO ESCAPE!*

WHAT?!

LISTEN, YOU STUPID PRISONER...

...THIS FACTORY MAKES GHOSTS!

"LONG, LONG AGO, ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE LIVED HERE... TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, AND TO SCARE OFF ENEMIES, THEY BEGAN MAKING GHOSTS..."

"THEY LOOSELY MODELED THEIR GHOSTS AFTER THE ENEMIES THAT CAME AFTER THEM..."

"... BUT THEY MADE THEM AS SCARY..."

"... AS POSSIBLE ..."

B-BUT WHAT'D THEY USE TO MAKE THEM?

SAND...

"TURN ON THESE MACHINES, AND THEY'LL TURN SAND INTO ANY SHAPE YOU WANT..."

SO WE CAN MAKE AS MANY AS WE WANT THAT LOOK LIKE YOU!!

WELL? HOW ABOUT IT? PLENTY SCARY, NO? YOU PROBABLY FEEL LIKE FAINTING!

GWA HA HA HA!

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU...

BUT ROBOTS LIKE ME DON'T GET SCARED....

SO THAT MEANS *YOU'RE* NOT SCARY, EITHER!!

TAKE *THIS*!!

BOSH

IT'S TIME TO SMASH YOUR MACHINES!

NO MORE GHOSTS'LL BE MADE HERE!

BASH

TIME TO GO BACK TO *SAND*!

SHWWIIP

THAT 'LL SHOW YOU!

GOSH, THEY REALLY DRAGGED ME DEEP UNDER THE DESERT...

YAY! I MADE IT TO THE *SURFACE*!

I GOT RID OF THE GHOSTS, PROFESSOR!

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF NOW...

YIKES!!

GOSH, HUMANS SURE ARE STRANGE...

ONE LITTLE *CATERPILLAR* ON MY BODY AND HE'S *TERRIFIED!*

THE SPACE BUG

First appeared in the July 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS AN *INSECT* THAT I BROUGHT BACK FROM *OUTER SPACE!*

THE CHIRPING OF THIS INSECT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT OF THE FAMOUS "BELL-RINGER" BUG OR EVEN A *COMMON CRICKET!*

HOKAY, LET'S SEE YOU SING, PAL!

I'VE GOT REPORTERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, *WAITING!*

WELL? EVER HEARD ANYTHING SO *SPLENDID?*

OOOOOO!

MY GOODNESS!!

I FEEL *SO GOOD!*

MAKES ME WANT TO *DANCE!!*

LIKE WALKING ON *CLOUDS!*

PLEASE, EVERYBODY... STOP FORCING THAT BUG TO SING...

IT'S NOT *REALLY* A BUG, ANYWAY...

IT'S A *PERSON* FROM OUTER SPACE!

WHEN I HEAR HIM, MY ELECTRO-BRAIN CAN TELL HE'S ACTUALLY *CRYING FOR HELP!*

AW, SHADDUP! YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT! WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW?!

NO! YOU'VE GOT TO RETURN IT TO OUTER SPACE...

THERE'LL BE TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T!!

GET OUT OF HERE!!

HOW CAN A DUMB ROBOT APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF AN INSECT'S SONG...

RINGGGG

TRAAAAAA

SPLOOSH

YOU SEE THAT? SOMETHING CAME OUT OF THE SEA!!

A SEA MONSTER P!

GAGIII!

MOHGIII!

RUN FOR IT!!

CAN'T TELL IF IT LOOKS LIKE A BELLY BUTTON OR AN EYE-BALL...

HELLO? THIS THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE?

RATS... THE PHONES ARE OUT...

ACCORDING TO THIS NEWS-PAPER...

... A STRANGE METEORITE LANDED TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO...

"THAT'S ALSO WHEN THAT CREATURE FROM OUTER SPACE WAS BROUGHT TO TOKYO..."

KABOOOM

"BUT IT SAYS THAT AFTER PLUNGING INTO A LANDFILL AREA NEAR THE SEA..."

"... THE METEORITE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED..."

AND NOW A MONSTER'S HEADED THIS WAY!!

I BET HE'S AFTER *THIS!!*

YIKES!

SHWIPP

UH OH... HE GOT THE *SPACE BUG!!*

FWP

HEY! GIVE THAT BUG BACK!!

TAKE *THIS!*

RATATATAT

UH OH... HIS TENTACLES'VE GOT ME!!

KATHUNK

DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS STOMACH OR HIS CHEST ARE, SO I'LL JUST KEEP SLAMMING HIM 'TIL HE *GIVES UP!*

POW POW POW

THUD

SHIVER SHIVER

TREMBLE TREMBLE

SWHP SHWP

HE'S UNDERGOING SOME SORT OF *TRANS-FORMATION* AGAIN!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS STUFF!

HERE, TRY *THIS* ON FOR SIZE!

IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOU BACK TO OUTER SPACE...

WHOOPS! I DROPPED HIM!

KA-THUNK

F W A A P

SHWP

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!

NOW HE'S GOT A REALLY *CUTE* HEAD...

DON'T TEASE US ANYMORE....

PLEASE ...

THIS IS MY PET DOG FROM BACK HOME.... HE CAME TO THIS PLANET TO SAVE ME...

*NORMALLY, HE'S REALLY SMALL, BUT WHEN HE GETS ANGRY HE SWELLS UP... HE GOT **REALLY** BIG EARLIER ECAUSE THE EARTHLINGS WERE BEING **MEAN** TO ME...*

DON'T WORRY, PAL... NOBODY'LL HURT YOU NOW... LET'S GO HOME...

G'BYE!

DON'T LET ANY EARTH PEOPLE CATCH YOU AGAIN!!

CRAZY DUCK

First appeared in the August 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME...

SO THIS TIME I'LL *REALLY* TEACH HIM A LESSON!!

SEE THIS? THIS IS WHAT OCHANOMIZU LOOKS LIKE!

WHAT'S THIS? A *PRESENT*? FOR *ME*?

"THIS DUCK WILL STAY WITH YOU FOREVER. BREAK IT, AND YOU WILL MEET WITH TERRIBLE MISFORTUNE..."

EGADS!!

PRESENT

HONK HONK

HEY, I'M JUST GOING TO THE TOILET. *BUG OFF!!*

STOP IT!!

SPLASH PHSSSH

HONK

ZZZZ

SNNNN

HONK!

HEY! GET YOUR MUDDY FEET OUT OF MY BREAKFAST!

I THINK I'M GOING *CRAZY*, URAN...

YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME...

SOMEBODY... *PLEASE*, GET *RID* OF THIS DUCK!

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR... THIS IS SOMETHING EVEN I CAN DO!

WOW... THIS GUY'S *POWERFUL!*

ZOOM

ZOOM

HONK!

WHY YOU...

GUUH...

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE FOR A STUPID TOY!

OH MY GOSH... POOR URAN...

DON'T WORRY, URAN, I'LL FIX YOU...

HEY! GET OFF THE TABLE!!

SCRAM, YOU CRAZY DUCK!

KABOOM

FOOSH

EGADS! WHILE I'M DISTRACTED, HE TURNS URAN INTO A HALF-DUCK!

WE'LL TAKE OFF IN THIS CAR AT 200 MPH! NO WAY HE'LL CATCH UP TO US!

VOOOSH!

PROFESSOR! NO MATTER HOW FAST WE GO, HE'S GAINING ON US!

WE'LL TAKE TO THE SKIES, THEN...

YIKES!!

THE PROFESSOR'S FINALLY OFF HIS ROCKER...

HONK...

URAN! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

HELP, ASTRO! HELP!!

HONK HONK

WHY, YOU CRAZY DUCK!!

DON'T TOUCH HIM, ASTRO!! IT'S DANGER-OUS!

MUST BE SOME WAY WE CAN GET THAT DUCK AWAY FROM HIM...

I KNOW... WE COULD SCRAMBLE THE DUCK'S ELECTRO-BRAIN!

MAYBE WE COULD TRICK HIM WITH SOME TASTY ROBOT FISH...

?

?

HONK?

BEEP HONK GAGAH BEEP HONK

BEEP GUEH... HONK BEEP GHHK

KA BOOM

WITH SO MANY PROFESSORS AROUND, THE DUCK WAS SO CONFUSED HE BLEW UP!

HE WENT CRAZY!

NOW, SINCE YOU GUYS ARE ALL ROBOTS MADE TO LOOK LIKE THE PROFESSOR...

...IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.

NOT SO FAST! I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!

NO, I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

NO, I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

NO, NO! YOU'RE ALL ROBOTS!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

ARE YOU BLIND? I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

NOW, WAIT A SECOND, EVERY-BODY!

HEY! YOUR NOSE IS TOO BIG!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE...

I'LL HAVE THEM PUT DIFFERENT FACES ON ALL OF YOU AT THE MINISTRY!

ACTUALLY, I SENT THAT THING TO OCHANOMIZU AS A PRESENT!! HA HA!

THAT A ROBOT DUCK YOU'VE GOT THERE, ASTRO?

SO YOU WERE BEHIND THIS?!

GWA HA HA HA! REALLY?! I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT!!

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH GRIEF YOU CAUSED HIM AND URAN?!

WELL, I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU, TOO...

GLOMP

Bzzzzzzzt

I HAD IT MADE AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TO THANK YOU!

REALLY? GOSH, I'M HONORED...

IT'S A GIANT CICADA... TRY PEELING IT OFF, AND IT'LL SPRAY ALL OVER YOU!

A FELINE GUARDIAN DIETY

First appeared in the September 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

FILM STUDIO

GOSH, SOME ABANDONED KITTIES... THE *POOR THINGS!*

I'LL JUST TAKE *ONE* HOME WITH ME...

HEY! I CAN'T TAKE *ALL* OF YOU WITH ME!

URAN! GET RID OF THESE CATS, *NOW!!!*

B-BUT MOM... THEY CAME IN HERE ON THEIR *OWN!!*

ASTRO! YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME!

I'M TRYING TO PUT ALL THESE CATS IN THIS *BOX...*

JACK!

HEY, NOT SO FAST!

I'M NOT YOUR MAMA CAT, YOU KNOW!

NO, YOU *ARE* A CAT!

WHO SAID THAT?!

YOU *ARE A CAT... YOU ARE A CAT... YOU ARE A CAT... A CAT... A CAT...*

I AM *NOT!*

I AM *NOT* A CAT! I'M *ASTRO BOY!* A *ROBOT!*

AH, BUT YOU USED TO BE A CAT ROBOT!

WELL, AS PROOF, LOOK AT YOUR OWN SHADOW! LOOKS LIKE A CAT'S, NO?

YOUR EYES SHINE LIKE A CAT'S....

AND YOU CAN FALL FROM HIGH PLACES AND NOT GET HURT, RIGHT?

I AM THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF CATS...

YOU CAT-STYLE ROBOTS ARE DESIGNED TO SERVE CATS!!

♪MEOOOWW!♪

WONDER WHAT ASTRO'S BEEN UP TO THESE DAYS...?

HE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL AN AWFULLY LONG TIME...

WHA?! URAN'S ACTING WEIRD, TOO! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

♪MEOOOW!♪

ASTRO! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING HOOKY?!

YOU'RE THE ONLY NORMAL ONE AROUND HERE, MA'AM!

♪MEOOW♪

SHAVED BONITO FLAKES? ♪ACK!♪ THAT'S A CAT FAVORITE!

SO WHY'RE THE KIDS IMITATING CATS, ANYWAY?

PROFESSOR OCHAN-OMIZU!?

LISTEN, ASTRO'S WHOLE FAMILY'S ACTING STRANGE... THEY'VE BEEN POSSESSED BY CATS!

♪MEOOOOW!♪

BLAST IT! I'VE BEEN LOCKED IN THE BASEMENT! HELP!!

I JUST DON'T GET WHY THIS'D HAPPENED TO ASTRO, TOO...

♪MEOW♪ ♪MEOW♪... IT IS EASY TO POSSESS A ROBOT...

WHA?! YOU SOME KIND OF CAT FASHION MODEL?

NO... I AM GUARDIAN DEITY OF CATS!

GUARDIAN DEITY OF CATS?! HA! YOU LOOK MORE LIKE HIGH-FASHION TRASH!

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE! THIS ISN'T A MANGA FOR YOUNG GIRLS! SCRAM!

GRAAAR!

"GIRLS' MANGA"?! HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN?!

IF YOU HAD GOOD MANNERS, YOU'D EXPLAIN YOURSELF *BEFORE* YOU SLAM ME...

JACK!... YOU SHREDDED MY *BEST SUIT!*

RRIPP

LET ME EXPLAIN THEN, *MISTER* TEACHER... TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO THIS WAS A *CAT WORLD*... BUT THEN HUMANS TOOK OVER AND MADE CATS THEIR PETS!! IT WAS *TERRIBLE!!*

SO MY GOAL IS TO RAISE KITTENS TO BE *WARRIORS*, TO MAKE THEM FIGHT HUMANS, AND RESTORE THE *CAT WORLD!!*

TURN HIM INTO DRIED BONITO FLAKES!!

Y-YOU MUST BE *JOKING!!*

I DON'T WANNA BE DRIED BONITO FLAKES!!

ASTRO... DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?! I'M YOUR *TEACHER!!*

AT LEAST LET ME HAVE SOME *UNDER-WEAR...*

STOP!!

HALP!!!

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!!

SORRY TO SCARE YOU, MUSTACHIO...

ACHOO!

WHAT'S GOING ON, PROFESSOR?

THAT CAT-GOD WAS A *ROBOT* THAT ESCAPED FROM THE *FILM STUDIO...*

FILM STUDIO P/

"RIGHT... THE COMPANY WAS MAKING A SUMMER HORROR MOVIE ABOUT CATS POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL."

"THEY NEEDED 1000 REAL KITTENS AND A ROBOT CAT-GOD..."

"BUT THE ROBO-CAT LET ALL THE KITTENS ESCAPE AND STARTED THINKING SHE WAS *REAL!*"

SHE SAID SHE WAS THE *GUARDIAN DEITY* OF *ALL CATS!*

THAT WAS ALL IN THE STORY-LINE...

BUT HOW COME *ASTRO* WAS POSSESSED?

THE ROBO-CAT GAVE OFF POWERFUL RADIO-WAVES...

LUCKILY, IT'S EASY TO FIX THIS!

ASTRO! GO CATCH THOSE CATS AND TAKE 'EM BACK TO THE STUDIO!

YESSIR!

ARGH!!! I'M A CAT-GOD... WHO PROTECTS ALL CATS!!

NOPE! YOU'RE JUST A *ROBOT*, LIKE *ME!!*

WHAT HAPPENED, ASTRO?!

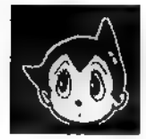
ALL THE KITTENS STILL THINK SHE'S THEIR REAL MOM, SO THEY WON'T LEAVE...

LISTEN... YOU'VE GOTTA FORGET ABOUT YOUR MAMA... SHE'S *NOT* YOUR MAMA, *UNDERSTAND?*

OWWWW! HAAALP! OW!

REAL KITTENS ARE EVEN SCARIER THAN A ROBO-CAT...

I'LL SAY...



THE SPACE SHUTTLE

First appeared in the October 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

ASTRO! COME QUICK! SOMETHING BIG'S HAPPENED!

GOSH, I WONDER WHAT IT IS?

THE PROFESSOR'S VOICE WAS TREMBLING!

IS IT ANOTHER OUT-OF-CONTROL ROBOT?

NO... I LOST MY PURSE!!

LOST YOUR PURSE?!

YES, WITH 1500 YEN INSIDE. IT'S REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT... YOU'VE GOT TO FIND MY PURSE...

GOSH, PROFESSOR, 1500 YEN'S NOT MUCH... HERE, TAKE MY ALLOWANCE...

NO! I JUST WANT YOU TO GET MY PURSE BACK!!

GEE, THIS SURE IS WEIRD...

MAYBE IT'S DOWN HERE...

HEY, THERE IT IS!!

YAY! THANKS, ASTRO!

IT HAD FALLEN DOWN THE DRAIN...

IT'S MY PURSE, ALL RIGHT...

NOT SO FAST, ASTRO! WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT YET...

LOOK...

KACHING

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART...

...FROM SPACE SHUTTLE NO. 1313!!

"THE SHUTTLE LAUNCHED THIS MORNING, BUT LATER ON WE REALIZED IT WAS MISSING THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ALL!!"

IT WAS SO SMALL, I HAD PUT IT IN MY PURSE AND COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT!!

WITHOUT THIS PART, THE SHUTTLE'S COMPUTER'LL GO *HAYWIRE*, AND IT'LL *CRASH* ON EARTH! YOU'VE GOT TO FLY INTO SPACE AND INSTALL THIS, ASTRO!!

ONE THING I'VE GOTTA AVOID HERE...

... IS WASTING MY *ENERGY* ...

THIS OUGHTA HELP!

HERE WE GO!

HOPE I CAN CATCH UP...

FWOK

GOT 'IM!!

WISH THE PROFESSOR'D TOLD ME *EARLIER*...

HEY! DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME!

THERE IT IS!!

VOOOSH

MAYBE IT'S ALREADY GONE *HAYWIRE*...

VROOOM

YIKES! I FEEL LIKE A COWBOY TRYING TO BREAK IN A *WILD HORSE!*

VROOOM

FINALLY! I'VE GOT YOU! YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO RUN AWAY...

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DON'T FLY AROUND ON YOUR OWN...

... SO I'M GIVING YOU THIS *PART*, OKAY?

B-BUT I'M LOOKING FOR MY *MAMA*...

MAMA LEFT ME AND TOOK OFF FOR SOMEPLACE...

SINCE WHEN DID SPACE SHUTTLE'S HAVE *MAMAS*...? YOU *REALLY* MUST BE HAYWIRE!

"MAMA'S THE ROCKET THAT CARRIED ME PIGGYBACK INTO OUTER SPACE!"

"... BUT ALMOST AS SOON AS WE WERE ALOFT, SHE ABANDONED ME!"

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOUR "MAMA" WAS A *BOOSTER* ROCKET, SILLY! ONCE YOU WERE HIGH ENOUGH, SHE FLEW OFF...

NO! SHE WAS REALLY MY MAMA!

AND I WANT TO SEE HER!!

WOW... THIS IS A TOUGH ONE...

TELL YOU WHAT... I'LL HELP SEARCH FOR HER...

IN EXCHANGE, PUT THIS PART INTO YOUR SYSTEM, AND WAIT HERE...

>HMPH!... HE THINKS THE BOOSTER ROCKET'S HIS MAMA...

MAYBE IT FELL ON LAND SOMEWHERE...

WAIT A SEC... I BET IT'S OVER THERE!

IT'S A SPACE *JUNKYARD!*

HELLO! HELLO!

A BOOSTER ROCKET FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE ANYWHERE HERE?

YOUR BABY MISSES YOU!

THERE IT IS!

HMPHF... THIS THING'S JUST A DUMB ROCKET...

IT DOESN'T HAVE A COMPUTER BRAIN LIKE THE SHUTTLE DOES...

I CAN CARRY IT, BUT IT'S JUST AN *EMPTY SHELL...*

MAMA! MY MAMA!

CHILD... YOUR MAMA HAS TO GO FAR, FAR AWAY...BUT YOU ARE STRONG, AND YOU CAN DO YOUR WORK WITHOUT ME...

YOU MUST LEAVE ON YOUR TRIP ALONE...

YES, MAMA...

I KNOW YOU'LL BE FINE, MY DEAR CHILD...

GOOD-BYE...

GOOD-BYE, MAMA...

HOPE HE'LL FORGIVE ME FOR IMPERSONATING HIS MOTHER...

YAY!!! THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S RETURNING TO NORMAL FLIGHT!!

ASTRO *DID IT!* HE REPAIRED THE *SSSHHUTTLE!!...*

WHAT HAPPENED, PROFESSOR? YOU LOSE SOMETHING AGAIN?

I'M... *MPHHF...* LOOKING FOR MY *FALSE TEETH!!*

SHOWDOWN ON MT. FUJI

First appeared in the December 1981 issue of *Shogaku Ninensei* magazine.

GIVE ME A COPY OF *FIRST GRADER MAGAZINE*...

YOU REALLY GONNA READ THAT, MISTER?

RIGHT. *I'M* GOING TO READ IT.

WELL, FOR YOU, SIR, I'D SAY *SECOND GRADER MAGAZINE* WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE...

B-BUT I WANNA READ *FIRST GRADER MAGAZINE!*

I'M APPEARING *IN SECOND GRADER MAGAZINE* NOW!

HEY! DON'T TEAR IT UP!

I'M SICK OF READING MANGA MAGAZINES WHERE I ALWAYS GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK!

BESIDES, THIS IS THE LAST EPISODE IN THE SERIES, SO FOR MY GRAND FINALE, I REALLY, REALLY WANNA GET *ASTRO BOY!*

A FRIEND TOLD ME THERE'S A REALLY POWERFUL HERO IN *FIRST GRADER MAGAZINE*...

H-*HERE IT IS!*

IT'S *UNICO!*

A UNICORN WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER WHO CAN FLY THROUGH THE AIR!

SO TO BEAT ASTRO BOY, I NEED SOMETHING LIKE THIS, WITH A POWERFUL *HORN!*

THE HORN ON MY UNICORN CAN EXTEND *25,000 MILES!*

I'LL USE IT TO SKEWER ASTRO FOR GOOD! *GWA HA HA!*

FINALLY, I'M *DONE*... OKAY, UNICORN... LET YOUR HORN LOOSE!

SHWP

}OWWW!{

THE HORN WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE PORTOPIA HOTEL...

... THE DONJON ON NAGOYA CASTLE

... AND THEN THE HEAD OF THE FAMOUS GREAT BUDDHA STATUE IN KAMAKURA...

IT ONLY STOPPED WHEN IT REACHED THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF SHOGAKUKAN, THE PUBLISHERS OF *SECOND GRADER MAGAZINE*.

CRACK

LESSEE... THE HORN EXTENDS 25,000 MILES IN FOUR SECONDS...

NO WAY ASTRO'LL BE ABLE TO AVOID THIS! *HEH HEH HEH!*

SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM *DR. FOOLA*, MASTER ASTRO...

"ASTRO BOY, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL WITH MY ROBOT ON MT. FUJI..."

}HMPH{... FOOLA'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN...

DON'T PAY HIM ANY ATTENTION, ASTRO...

SMASH

TURN ME DOWN AND I'LL MAKE THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE LOOK LIKE *SWISS CHEESE*, OCHANOMIZU!

FWOOOSH

WOW... THAT'S ONE HECK OF A DANGEROUS ROBOT...

KEEP MT. FUJI BEAUTIFUL. NO LITTERING!

UM... IT'S THE WRONG SEASON TO CLIMB MT. FUJI, SIR...

I'M HERE FOR A *DUEL!!*

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT... JUST MAKE SURE YOU TAKE HOME ALL YOUR TRASH! *RULES ARE RULES!*

AH, SHADDUP...

I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO *SCRAP!* INTO *TRASH* TO TAKE HOME!!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, ASTRO!

WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU FIRST, FOOLA!

HOW FAR CAN THAT HORN BE EXTENDED, ANYWAY?

25,000 MILES, THAT'S HOW FAR! SO IT'S NO USE *RUNNING AWAY!* GWA HA HA!

OKAY... *HERE I COME!*

GLOM

HEY! WHERE'D HE GO?!

I'M OVER HERE, FOOLA! *HERE!*

B-BUT I CAN'T *SEE* YOU!

SMASH

SMASH

SMASH

I'M *RIGHT HERE!!*

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?!*

SMASH

BASH BASH

HEY, DON'T SMASH MY UNICORN'S *FACE!!*

JUST WAIT... I'LL SHOW YOU!!!

SHWIP

JACK... *THIS* IS WHAT HAPPENS?!

SHWWPPP

VOOOOSH

VOOOOSH

25,000 MILES IS THE DISTANCE 'ROUND EARTH, ASTRO!

AND *THEN* WHAT HAPPENS, FOOLA?

KABOOM

WAAHE... I *SKEWERED* MYSELF!!

UM, LIKE I SAID, YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE YOUR TRASH HOME YOURSELF...

DON'T WORRY, SIR... I'LL TAKE IT ALL AWAY!

NO LITTERING

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, EV'RYBODY!!

THE SILVER TOWER

First appeared in the April 1976 issue of *Shonen Jump* magazine.

VROOOSH

GOSH, NOBODY COULD POSSIBLY LIVE AROUND HERE...

IT WAS RIGHT AROUND HERE THAT THE GROUND SHIFTED AFTER THAT HUGE EARTHQUAKE...

IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, NO WONDER NO ONE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED...

BUT MY SOURCES SAY THEY SAW THE OBJECT IN QUESTION HERE...

ASTRO... WE NEED YOU TO CHECK THINGS OUT... LIKE WE DISCUSSED, OKAY?

ROAR

VOOOSH

I FOUND IT, PROFESSOR!

IT'S NEAR A CLIFF WAY ON THE NORTH SIDE. HEAD FOR THE NORTH!

VROOOOSH

SCREEE

VAVAVRAAMMMM

FWAD FWAD FWAD FWAD

WHAT A DESOLATE PLACE THIS IS...

ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE OBJECT LOOKED SORT OF LIKE AN *OIL WELL*...

WHERE IS IT, ASTRO?

IT'S RIGHT OVER THE HILL THERE, PROFESSOR ...

WOOOSH

WHEWE...

WOOOOOSH

SO *THAT'S* IT! FUNNY THAT WE COULDN'T SEE SUCH A HUGE THING FROM THE AIR...

PROBABLY NOT CONSPICUOUS ENOUGH TO SEE IN THIS VAST DESERT...

BUT WHAT ON EARTH IS IT?!

LOOK, *ABULLA FRAI*... THIS IS SILVER DUST PAINTED ON ROCKS...

AMAZING THAT IT HASN'T FALLEN OFF, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

MUST BE BE-CAUSE IT WAS BURIED 'TIL NOW...

ASTRO! WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE AT THE TOP?

THERE'S A *HOLE* HERE, PROFESSOR, AND SOME *AIR'S* BLOWING UP THROUGH IT...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENTRANCE TO A *WELL* OR SOMETHING!

THINK WE CAN GET INSIDE?

HANG ON, ASTRO... WE'RE COMING ...

ABULLA... THIS IS REALLY ODD... I'M GETTING COVERED IN *SILVER!*

ABULLA... WHAT HAPPENED?

RATTLE SHWWWP

YIKES!!

ASTRO! *HAALP!*

FWAP FWAP

POOR ABULLA ... HE'S *DEAD* ...

HELP ME, ASTRO... I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO *FALL...*

I FEEL *TERRIBLE*.... I KNOW THIS MISSION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SECRET, BUT WE SHOULD'VE BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE ALONG ...

WHEN I WAS FIRST ASSIGNED THIS JOB, NOBODY THOUGHT IT WAS THAT IMPORTANT...

NEITHER THE IRANIAN NOR JAPANESE GOVERN-MENTS WERE PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT...

A HUGE *EARTHQUAKE* HAS OCCURRED IN A DESERT REGION OF IRAN, PROFES-SOR...

TWO AND A HALF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN *KILLED!*

SO WE WANT TO SEND ASTRO TO *INVESTIGATE...*

WHAT?!

LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'RE THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT WHY SEND ASTRO TO INVESTIGATE AN EARTHQUAKE WHERE ONLY TWO AND A HALF PEOPLE DIED?!

WELL, SOMEONE'S APPARENTLY FOUND SOMETHING RESEMBLING AN *OIL WELL* IN THE AREA...

AND THERE MAY BE CERTAIN *ADVANTAGES* FOR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IF ONE OF *OUR* TEAMS FINDS IT FIRST... *HEH HEH...*

'OU WANT TO DIVE IN, PROFESSOR?

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE...

HEH HEH... HOW 'BOUT A *HAIKU* PARODY NOW..."A-AH, THE OLD WELL... ASTRO PLUNGES INTO IT... THE SOUND OF HIS JETS..."

LOOKS LIKE IT GOES WAY, WAY DOWN, PROFESSOR...

SO MAYBE IT IS A WELL...

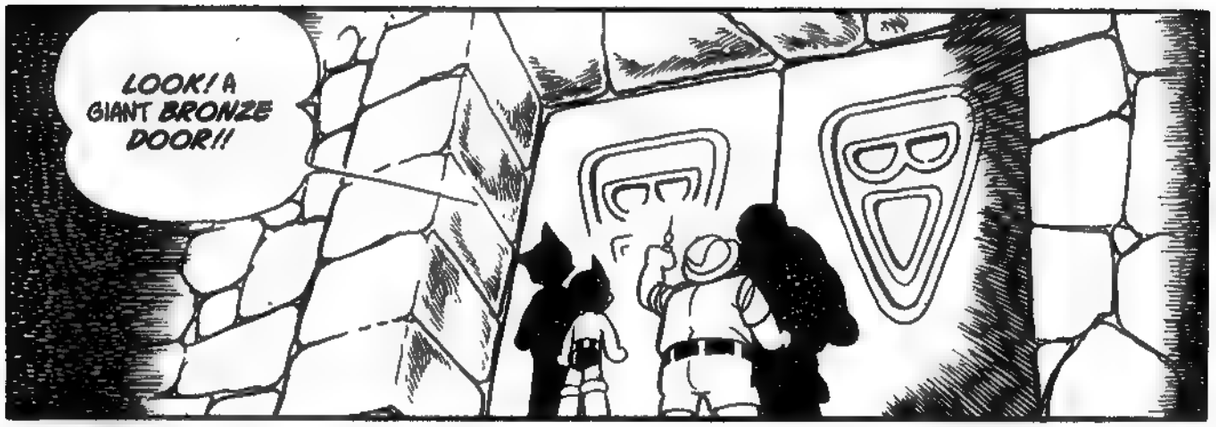
YOU EVER HEARD OF THE *SILK ROAD*, ASTRO?

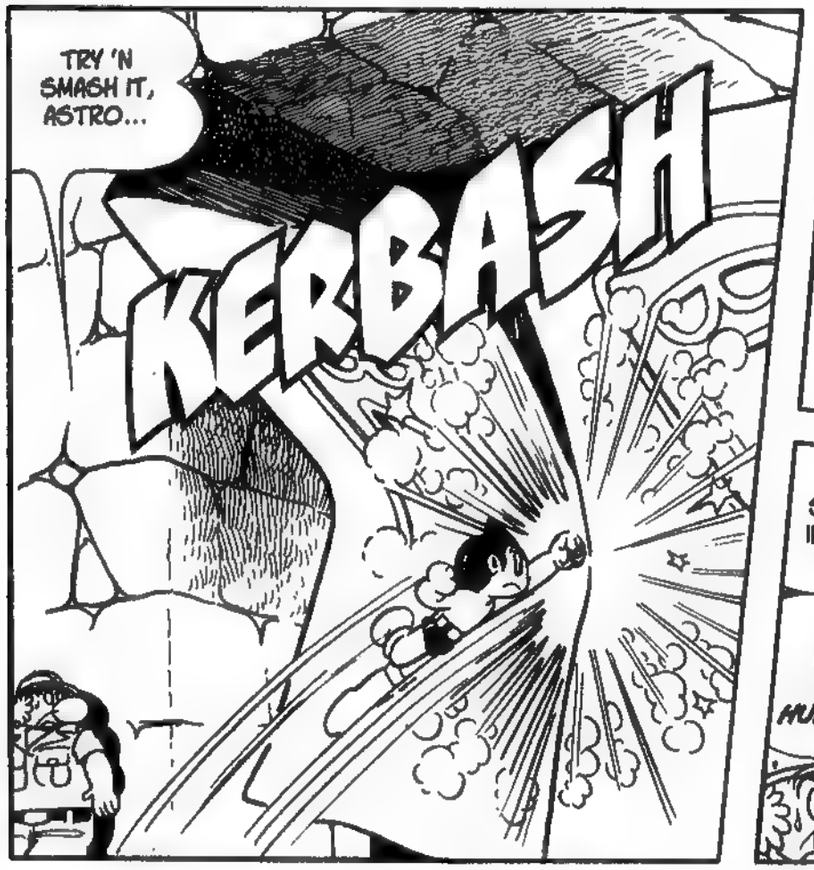
"THAT SOME KIND OF CANDY BAR, PROFESSOR?"

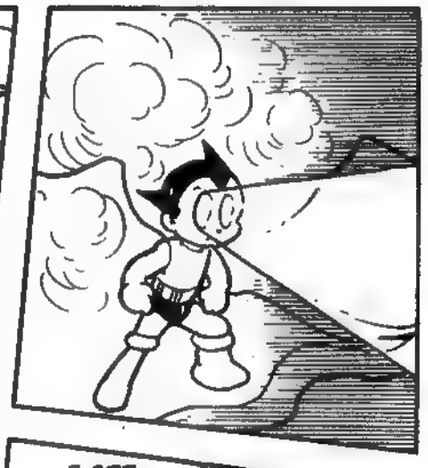
"NO... IT WAS AN OVERLAND ROUTE THAT CONNECTED CHINA WITH EUROPE OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO. CARAVANS TRAVELLED ON IT, CARRYING EXOTIC TRADE GOODS BACK AND FORTH, AND NATIONS AND CITIES ALONG THE ROUTE PROSPERED".

"'COURSE, THOSE CITIES AND NATIONS ARE NOW RUINS, BURIED BENEATH DESERT SANDS... ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHAT I FIRST THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS..."

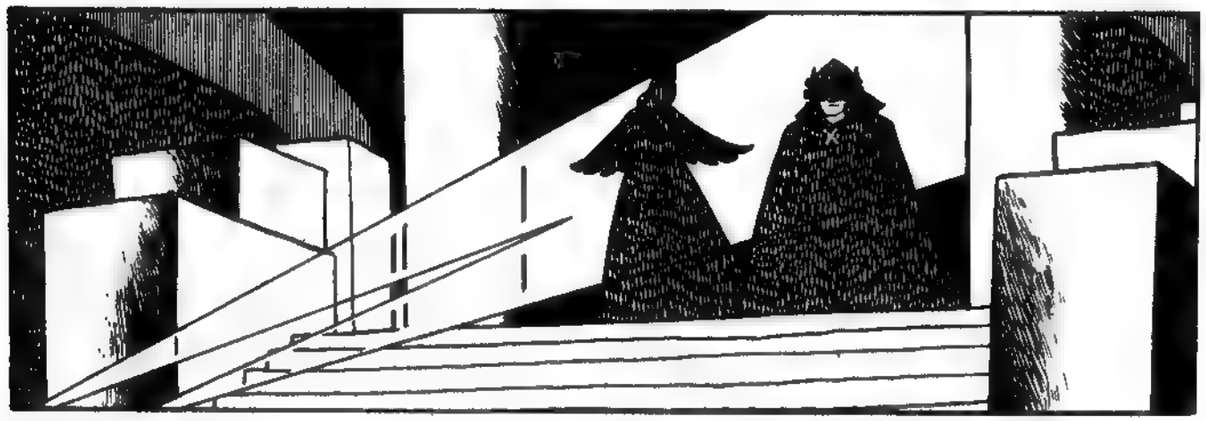
BUT IT APPEARS THAT I WAS WRONG... THIS IS *MUCH*, MUCH *OLDER*...


LOOK! A GIANT BRONZE DOOR!!


TRY 'N SMASH IT, ASTRO...
KERBASH



I SEE SOME THINGS INSIDE, PROFESSOR...
THEY LOOK LIKE HUMANS!!

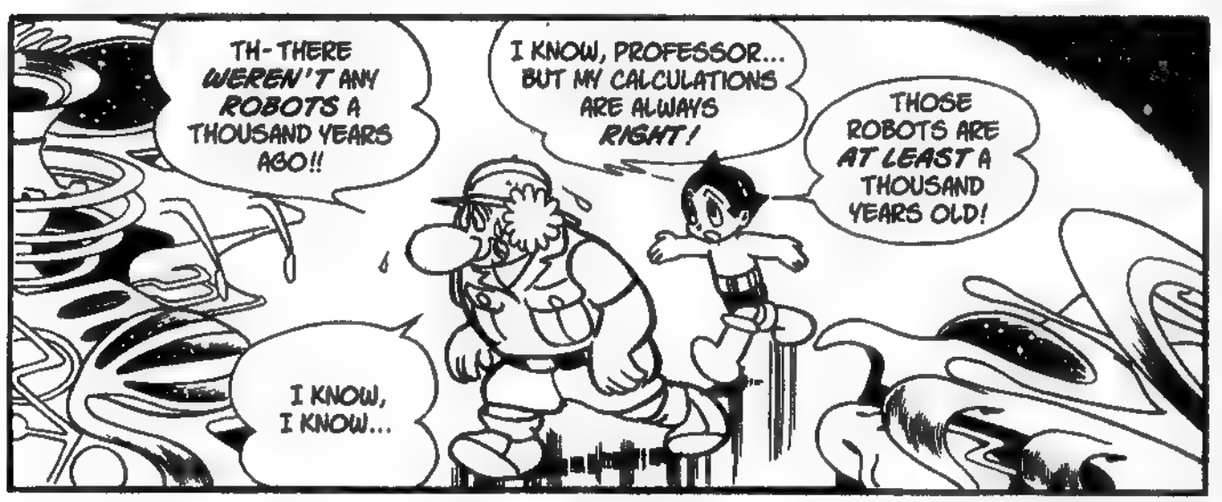


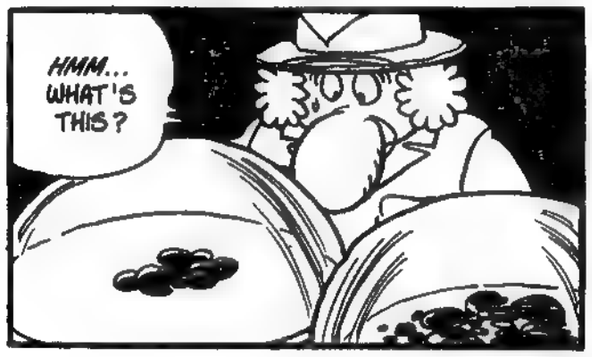
ER... EXCUSE US, SIRS...
PROFESSOR... THESE AREN'T HUMANS! THEY'RE DOLLS!

NO... WAIT A SEC... THEY'RE ROBOTS ...
THIS IS REALLY STRANGE!

LOOK AT ALL THE DUST THAT'S COLLECTED ON THEIR SHOULDERS!
I BET THEY'VE BEEN STANDING HERE...

... FOR AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEARS!!
B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


TH-THERE WEREN'T ANY ROBOTS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!!
I KNOW, I KNOW...
I KNOW, PROFESSOR... BUT MY CALCULATIONS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT!
THOSE ROBOTS ARE AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEARS OLD!


HMM... WHAT'S THIS?

LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF FOOD, ASTRO...!

JACKIE PHHTT ..... YOU'RE TOO CURIOUS, PROFESSOR!!

IT'S FOOD, ALL-RIGHT... IT'S A THOUSAND YEARS OLD AND ALL DRIED UP!

... AND IT'S EXACTLY LIKE SOME FOOD DISCOVERED IN CHINA'S ONE-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD MAWANGDUI TOMBS!

WONDER IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF TOMB, TOO...

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, ASTRO...

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS?

DON'T TOUCH THAT, PROFESSOR!!

FWP FWP FWP SHWIP BEEEP BEEP

BA-ZZAAP

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

WE APPEAR TO HAVE VISITORS, MY LADY...

WE'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS, MY LORD...

YOU ARE RIGHT. LET US HAVE A WELCOME FEAST!!

WELL, WELL, WELL... WELCOME TO OUR PALACE...

AND WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM, TRAVELERS?

THEY'RE *MOVING*, PRO-FES-SOR!!

THEY'VE STARTED MOVING BECAUSE OF SOMETHING *YOU* DID, PROFESSOR!

WELCOME, WELCOME!

PLEASE FEEL AT HOME...

THIS PLANET IS CALLED EARTH... WITH CLEAR WATER, AND GREEN PLANTS, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL...

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT ROBOT SAYING, ASTRO?

FEEL FREE TO RELAX HERE, AND TO ENJOY YOUR *SIGHTSEEING*...

PRO-FES-SOR...

...HE SEEMS TO THINK WE'RE FROM *OUTER SPACE!*

I DON'T GET IT... HE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TELL WE'RE FROM *EARTH* JUST BY LOOKING AT US...

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HE'S SAYING...

WELL, LET'S START BY INTRODUCING OURSELVES...

HI... I'M *OCHANOMIZU*, AND THIS HERE IS *ASTRO BOY*, SEE?

WELL, WELL...

I AM NAMED *ADAM*... AND MY QUEEN IS *EVE*... WE LIVE HERE IN THIS *SILVER TOWER* ...

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS PLANET, EARTH, IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY...

"PEOPLE TRAVELING THROUGH THE VAST DISTANCES OF SPACE LOVE TO STOP HERE, FOR WHILE THIS FORTRESS IS OF HUMBLE ORIGINS, IT IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO REST..."

PRESENTS FROM EARTH

I... I'M STARTING TO GET THE PICTURE...

THIS IS A WAY STATION FOR *SPACE TRAVELERS*....

BUT HE MENTIONED "*FORTRESS*," SO IT MUST HAVE THAT PURPOSE, TOO...

AND HE'S *MISTAKEN!* HE THINKS WE'RE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

THE BANQUET IS READY, MY LORD...

YIKES! YOU MEAN WE'LL HAVE TO EAT THAT DRIED STUFF AGAIN?

ALLOW ME TO MAKE A *TOAST*... TO THE HEALTH OF OUR NEW FRIENDS!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DRINK THIS...

GULL-LPP

WAIT A MINUTE... THIS IS *GASOLINE!*

BU!

MY LADY AND I WERE MADE ON OUR HOME PLANET OF *REGA* FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO AND SENT HERE TO LIVE AND ENTERTAIN VISITORS...

WE NORMALLY STAND WHERE YOU FIRST SAW US, AND WHEN VISITORS ARRIVE WE WAKE UP AND ENTERTAIN THEM...

GOSH, YOU MUST'VE BEEN ASLEEP A LONG TIME...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE OUR LAST GUEST, MY LADY? A THOUSAND YEARS, WOULD YOU SAY?

YES... IT'S BEEN QUITE LONELY HERE...

IF YOU'D LIKE, PLEASE HAVE MORE...

ER... THANKS, BUT NO THANKS...

NO

MAYBE THEY LOOK SO ADVANCED 'CAUSE THEY'RE MADE ON ANOTHER PLANET, ASTRO...

YEAH, BUT THEY LOOK SO HUMAN IT'S *CREEPY*...

HAH HAH... OUR VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE USUALLY LOOK HUMANOID... WITH TWO ARMS AND TWO LEGS, AND LUNGS...

OOPS... GUESS HE HEARD ME...

HOW ABOUT SOME *METHANE* GAS FOR DESSERT ?

ACKKK!!

HACK
HACK

GASP
...

TO ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS, MY LADY, PERHAPS YOU COULD *SING* FOR US...

SCREEEECH

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY VERY *TIRED*...

... SO LET US SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM...

GOSH, I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT THIS STONE TOWER WAS AN *INN* FOR *SPACE TRAVELERS* ...

IF THAT PAIR HAVE BEEN ON EARTH FOR 50,000 YEARS, ASTRO, THEY WERE HERE WHEN HUMANS WERE STILL LIVING IN *CAVES!*

THE WORLD WAS COVERED WITH ANCIENT FORESTS, AND TRAVELERS MUST HAVE FLOCKED TO SEE ITS BEAUTY...

LOOK OVER THERE... I BET THOSE THINGS WERE LEFT BY TRAVELERS...

'COURSE, I'VE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE...

BETTER NOT TOUCH THAT STUFF, PROFES-SOR!

BUT WHAT A SHAME... THIS IS A PRICELESS *SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY* ...

HMPHF... TIME TO GO TO SLEEP, I S'POSE...

THIS MUST BE THE SWITCH TO TURN OUT THE *LIGHTS*...

KASPLOOSH

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING, PROFESSOR... YOU'LL *NEVER* LEARN!

LOOK, MY LADY!

LOOK HOW *FILTHY* EARTH'S *AIR* HAS BECOME...

SOME PLACES ARE EVEN *RADIO-ACTIVE!*

DURING THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS...

... SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* MUST HAVE HAPPENED!

THAT'S PROBABLY WHY TRAVELERS DON'T STOP HERE ANYMORE!

THE *WATER'S* AWFULLY FILTHY, TOO, MY LORD...

IF PEOPLE BATHED IN IT, THEY'D PROBABLY GET *SICK!*

AND LOOK AT THE *FORESTS!* NEARLY HALF OF THEM HAVE *DISAPPEARED!*

WHO DID THIS TO THE TREES?!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE *HUMANS* ...

HUMANS ?!

... SUCH PRIMITIVE, FOOLISH CREATURES?

THEN WE MUST *ELIMIN-ATE* THEM!

MY LORD! *PLEASE!* WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?!

IT'S *OBVIOUS!* WE'VE GOT TO *EXTER-MINATE THE HUMANS!*

UM, YOUR HIGHNESS...

HOPEFULLY YOU ARE AWARE...

...THAT *WE* ARE *HUMANS* BORN HERE, *REAL EARTHLINGS* ...

AND HUMANS *EVOLVE*... SO EARTH IS ACTUALLY IN AN *ATOMIC AGE* NOW...

LET ME *EXPLAIN* ...

PROFES-SOR!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

UH OH...

NO!!

BLAST IT!

WAIT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH THE PROFES-SOR?!

HEH HEH... IF WE LET THE HUMANS DO AS THEY PLEASE...

... EARTH WILL BE DES-TROYED! AND THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE!

BUT WE WILL LET YOU LIVE IN OUR SILVER TOWER...

... AS OUR PRINCE !!

YOU CAN LIVE WITH US HERE FOR-EVER !!

WE ARE ROBOTS, AND SO ARE YOU...

SO WE WILL THEREFORE SPARE YOU!

BUT I'M AN EARTH ROBOT!

I CAN'T LIVE WITH PEOPLE WHO HATE HUMANS!

WELL, THINK IT OVER, BECAUSE SOME-TIMES WE ARE LONELY ...

... LIVING HERE ALL ALONE...

STOP! LET THE PROFESSOR GO!!

GRRRR...

ARGH ...

YOU HAVE ADMITED TO BEING ONE OF THE EVIL HUMANS!

SO WE SHALL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU!!!

WAIT! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...

EVEN WE HUMANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT POLLUTION ON EARTH...

WE'RE WORKING TO RESTORE THINGS TO THE WAY THEY WERE... HONEST...

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE ROBOTS LIKE YOU HELP US!!

SILENCE!!

WE ARE ROBOTS, BUT NOT EARTH ROBOTS!

LOOK AT ME!!

BEHOLD!!

WE ARE ROBOTS FROM THE PLANET REGA!

VOOSH

VOOP!

MY GOSH... THEY'RE EXPLODING!

FWISH

OH, NO...

YIKES!!

SMASH

STOP SQUIRMING!

WE'RE GOING TO STORE YOU AS FOOD, FOR FUTURE SPACE TRAVELERS!

HAALP!

FWIISH

VOOOSH

ARGH!
...

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE...

RATATAT

IT DIDN'T WORK ...

I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE...

RATATAT

I MAY NOT HAVE TWO ARMS, BUT I'VE STILL GOT 100,000 HORSE-POWER!

KER THUD!!

PROFES-SOR!!

GLUB GLUB GLUB

SPLOOSH

YOU SAVED ME, ASTRO! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR *ARMS?!*

YOU DID THAT TO YOURSELF? YOU *POOR THING!!!*

THOSE ROBOTS CAN REARRANGE THEMSELVES INTO ANY SHAPE THEY WANT! THEY'RE *MONSTERS!*

B-BUT WHERE'D THEY GO...?

THEY FLEW OFF, ASTRO... THEY'RE PROBABLY LOOKING FOR HUMANS TO *KILL!!*

WAIT HERE, PROFESSOR... I'LL FIND THEM...

THERE THEY ARE...

SO YOU GOT FREE, LITTLE ROBOT...

RIGHT, AND I'M COMING AFTER YOU, *MONSTER!*

YOU MEAN TO FIGHT US, WITH NO *ARMS?! HA HA HA!*

BE CAREFUL, MY LORD... HE IS NOT AN ORDINARY ROBOT...

HERE I COME!!

VOOOSH

VROOOOM

ZIP

ZIP

SMASH

VROOM

WHY, YOU...

ROAAR

VROOOM

SMASH

BOOSH SMOSH

SHMONK

BONK

BAM

POP

POP

POW

I'M GONNA KICK OUT EVERY PART YOU HAVE!!

SMASH

WELL? HAD ENOUGH?

B-BUT WHY...

...WHY DO YOU FIGHT...

...TO SAVE HUMANS?

IT'S EASY...

IT'S BECAUSE I WAS *MADE* BY *HUMANS!* I *LIKE* THEM!

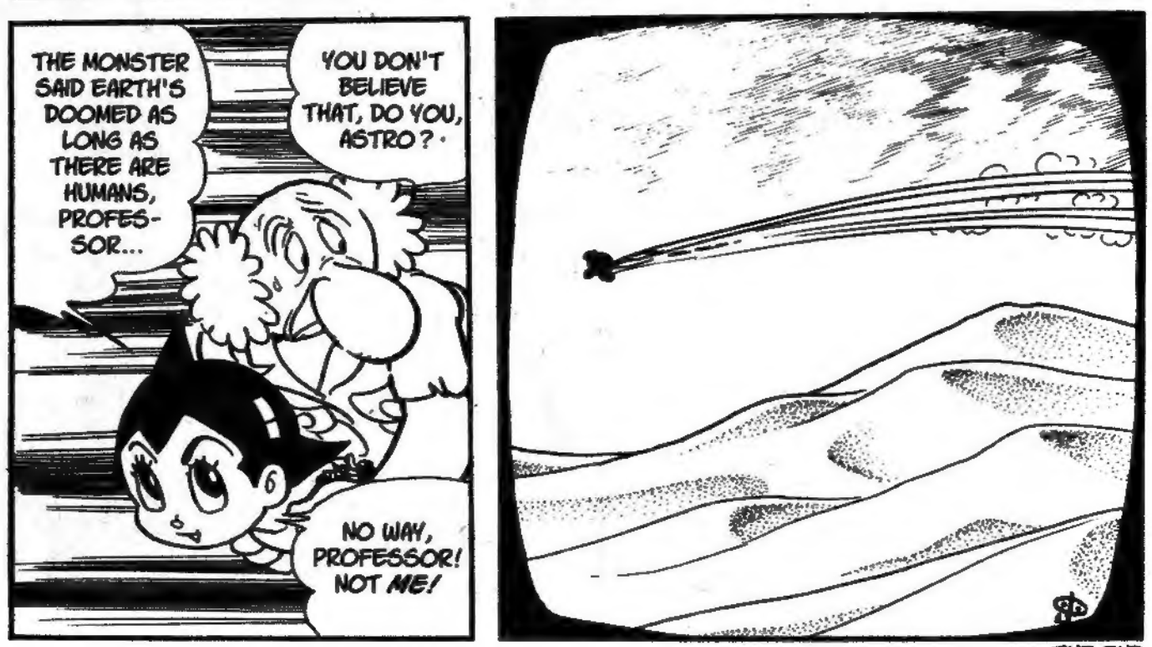
WE ARE DYING... BUT WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK... PLEASE DESTROY THE *SILVER TOWER*...

WITHOUT US, IT IS NO LONGER NEEDED...

PLEASE, LITTLE ROBOT...

BUT LET US WARN YOU... EARTH IS *DOOMED* AS LONG AS THERE ARE HUMANS...

BA
BA
BA
BOOOOM


THE MONSTER SAID EARTH'S DOOMED AS LONG AS THERE ARE HUMANS, PROFES-SOR...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU, ASTRO?
NO WAY, PROFESSOR! NOT ME!

THE END

AFTERWORD

The *Sunday Comics* series of *Astro Boy* stories [Dark Horse volumes 1 – 21], published by Akita Shoten, is the same as the twenty-one volume series published by Asahi Sonorama from June 20, 1975 to July 15, 1976, under the title of *Sun Comics Tetsuwan Atom*. The two supplement volumes [Dark Horse volumes 22 and 23], however, are edited to include the supplement volume published on September 30, 1976, as well as the *Astro Boy* stories that appeared in *Shogaku Ninensei* ["Second Grader"] magazine, in conjunction with the then newly-created 1980 TV animated series.

As with his *Black Jack* manga series, in the paperback compilations of the *Astro* story, Osamu Tezuka compiled the episodes in a sequence of his own choosing and not in the order in which they were first serialized in *Shonen* magazine. As a result, in the first volume of these compilations he usually added a simple "prologue" to illustrate how Astro came to be; in the *Sun Comics* compilation, he created an entire, special episode for this. Furthermore, in the *Sun Comics* edition, he also drew pages showing himself introducing specific episodes and reminiscing about them.

The *Sun Comics* edition of paperbacks was the first to contain all of the *Astro Boy* episodes up to that time; prior paperback collections had not included all the episodes, primarily because *Astro Boy* was still being serialized. For example, after *Shonen* magazine went out of business and the *Astro Boy* serialization (but not the story) ended, Shogakukan, a major Tokyo publisher, began issuing a twenty-volume collection of paperbacks titled *The Osamu Tezuka Collection: Astro Boy*, starting in October 1968 and ending in March, 1970. This collection was supposed to be part of a collection of all of Tezuka's work, however, and as a result at the end it also included some short stories that had nothing to do with *Astro Boy* at all. Furthermore, it did not really contain all the existing *Astro Boy* episodes.

The *Sun Comics* collection was conceived later, after the Shogakukan collection. Tezuka had unfortunately already experienced the problem of seeing paperback collections of his works cease publication before all the planned volumes had been issued, so to protect himself he devised the strategy of having his favorite episodes published first. Conversely, he may not have been very eager to showcase works that were not his personal favorites. Fortunately, the *Sun Comics* collection sold well, and it was therefore possible to include *all* the *Astro Boy* episodes in it, and even to issue two extra "supplement volumes" containing *Astro Boy* stories that had appeared outside of the original *Shonen* magazine serialization. As a result, the *Sun Comics* compilation was the first to really meet the demands of fans who wanted to read *all* the *Astro Boy* stories.

This newly-designed paperback pocket edition is exactly the same as the *Sun Comics* edition, and it can be thought of as the definitive compilation, as configured by Osamu Tezuka himself. Themes aside, in terms of the number of panel illustrations, the amount of text, and overall readability, *Astro Boy* may seem somewhat old-fashioned today, but once readers become accustomed to this older format, I am convinced that they will make many new discoveries. And since many people familiar with the basic story have never read the original *Astro Boy* manga at all, it is my sincere hope that they will take advantage of the opportunity to do so presented here.

Finally, I should mention that in his explanation of the "Plant People" episode in Volume 1, Tezuka asks the readers to guess who the dog next to his Rock character is. It's a question without any particularly deep significance, and the correct answer is presumably "Jip," from his *Dr. Thrill* series.

— Haruji Mori, Head Archivist, Tezuka Productions, Ltd.